

Appl. No. 10/734,006
Amdt. dated November 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 12, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A biodegradable nonwoven web prepared from a polymer blend comprising from about 65% by weight to about 99% by weight of a biodegradable aliphatic polyester polymer and from about 1% by weight to about 35% by weight of a second polymer which is amorphous and is selected from the group consisting of a polymer having a lower melting point than the aliphatic polyester polymer, a polymer having a lower molecular weight than the aliphatic polyester polymer and mixtures thereof.
2. (currently amended) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 1, wherein the aliphatic polyester comprises at least one polymer selected from polyhydroxy butyrate (PHP), polyhydroxy butyrate-co-valerate (PHBV), polycaprolactane, polybutylene succinate, polybutylene succinate-co-adipate, polyglycolic acid (PGA), polylactide or polylactic acid (PLA), polybutylene oxalate, polyethylene adipate, polyparadioxanone, polymorpholineviones, and or polydioxipane-2-one.
3. (original) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 2, wherein the aliphatic polyester comprises a polylactide.
4. (original) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 3, wherein the polylactide comprises a poly(L-lactide) having a D-isomer, if present, in an amount less than 3%.
5. (original) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 4 wherein the polylactide comprises a poly(L-lactide) having a D-isomer, if present, in an amount less than 2%.
6. (original) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 1, wherein the second polymer comprises a biodegradable aliphatic polyester, a polyolefin, a polyamide, a terpene resin, ethylene copolymers derived from ethylene and a non-hydrocarbon containing monomer or a wood rosin.

Appl. No. 10/734,006
Amdt. dated November 14, 2005
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7. (original) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 6, wherein the second polymer comprises a polyalphaolefin.

8. (original) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 6, wherein the second polymer comprises a biodegradable aliphatic polyester.

9. (original) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 6, wherein the second polymer comprises a biodegradable aliphatic polyester having a melting point at least 10 °C below the melting point of the first biodegradable aliphatic polyester.

10. (original) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 1, wherein the nonwoven web is a meltblown nonwoven web, a spunbond nonwoven web, a bonded carded web or an airlaid nonwoven web.

11. (original) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 10, wherein the nonwoven web is a spunbond nonwoven web.

12. (original) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 1, wherein the nonwoven web comprises multicomponent fibers, wherein at least a portion of an outer surface of the multicomponent fibers comprises the polymer blend.

13. (original) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 1, wherein the nonwoven web is a spunbond nonwoven web, the biodegradable polymer comprises a polylactide having a D-lactide isomer content less than about 3% by weight, based on the weight of the polylactide, the second polymer comprises a polyalphaolefin, the blend comprises from about 85 -98 % by weight of the polylactide and from about 2-15 % by weight of the polyalphaolefin.

14. (original) The biodegradable nonwoven web of claim 1, wherein the nonwoven web is a spunbond nonwoven web, the biodegradable polymer comprises a polylactide having less than about 3% by weight of a D-lactide isomer, the second polymer comprises a polylactide having a D-

Appl. No. 10/734,006
Amdt. dated November 14, 2005
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lactide isomer content in the range of about 3-9% by weight, based on the weight of the polylactide, the blend comprises from about 65-75 % by weight of the polylactide and from about 25-35 % by weight of the polyalphaolefin.

15. (original) A personal care product comprising the nonwoven web of claim 1 as a component of the product.

16. (original) The personal care product of claim 15, wherein the personal care product is a diaper.

17. (original) The personal care product of claim 15, wherein the personal care product is a feminine hygiene pad.

18. (original) The personal care product of claim 15, wherein the personal care product is a training pant.

19. (original) A medical garment comprising the nonwoven web of claim 1.

20. (original) The medical garment of claim 19, wherein the medical garment is a gown.

21. (original) The medical garment of claim 19, wherein the medical garment is a face mask

22. (original) A sterile wrap comprising the nonwoven web of claim 1.

23. (original) A wiper comprising the nonwoven web of claim 1.

24. (original) A filter comprising the nonwoven web of claim 1.

Appl. No. 10/734,006
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25. (currently amended) A method of increasing the tear strength of a biodegradable nonwoven web prepared from a biodegradable aliphatic polyester polymer, said method comprising forming a blend of a biodegradable aliphatic polyester polymer and a polymer which is amorphous selected from the group consisting of a polymer having a lower melting point than the biodegradable aliphatic polyester polymer, a polymer having a lower molecular weight than the biodegradable aliphatic polyester polymer and mixtures thereof with the biodegradable aliphatic polyester polymer; forming a nonwoven web from the blend; and bonding the nonwoven web.

26. (original) A fiber from a polymer blend comprising from about 65% by weight to about 99% by weight of a biodegradable aliphatic polyester polymer and from about 1% by weight to about 35% by weight of a second polymer which is amorphous and is selected from the group consisting of a polymer having a lower melting point than the aliphatic polyester polymer, a polymer having a lower molecular weight than the aliphatic polyester polymer and mixtures thereof.

27. (original) The fiber of claim 26, wherein the fibers is a staple fiber.

28. (original) The fiber of claim 26, wherein the fiber is a substantially continuous filament.